Construction of by-pass on NH No. 5

2034. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to construct a by-pass to avoid traffic congestion between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack on National Highway No. 5;

(b) whether the proposal has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Private sector investment in road construction/maintenance

2035. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's policy towards inviting private sector to invest in construction and maintenance of road network in the country;

(b) how the private sector has responded to this;

(c) the reasons for poor response from the private sector; and

(d) the details of the alternative strategy if any, adopted by Government to increase investment in construction and maintenance of road network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The policy of the Government is to offer viable National Highway projects to private sector under the Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Scheme based on lowest toll/concession period.

(b) There has been good response from private sector.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some projects have also been taken up on annuity basis to